IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims now pending. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A control method comprising:

a recognition step, of recognizing a status of a printing apparatus; and

a decision step, of, in a case of assigning at least a part of a print job ~~which is assumed~~ to be printed by the printing apparatus to another printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in said recognition step, deciding the other printing apparatus from among a plurality of available printing apparatuses in accordance with the [[a]] paper ejection type of the [[other]] plurality of available printing ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses.

Claim 21 (currently amended): [[The]] A control method according to claim 20, wherein the print job comprises a distributed job.

Claim 22 (currently amended): [[The]] A control method according to claim 21 further comprising an acknowledging step, of acknowledging [[a]] the paper ejection type of the other printing apparatus,

wherein, in said decision step, the other printing apparatus is decided on the basis of an ~~acknowledgement by~~ acknowledgment in said acknowledging step of the paper ejection type of the other printing apparatus.

Claim 23 (currently amended): [[The]] A control method according to claim 21, further comprising a reassignment step, of assigning at least a part of the distributed job to another printing apparatus,

wherein, in said reassignment step, at least the part of the distributed job is assigned to the other printing apparatus decided in said decision step.

Claims 24 and 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): [[The]] A control method according to claim 21, wherein the paper ejection type represents a direction of a surface of ejected paper, and the direction is face-up or face-down.

Claim 27 (currently amended): [[The]] A control method according to claim 21, wherein the paper ejection type is an output order of pages, and the output order is ascending or descending.

Claim 28 (currently amended): [[The]] A control method according to claim 21, wherein, in said decision step, in the case of assigning at least part of the distributed job to be printed by the printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in said recognition step, it is decided to assign at least [[a]] part of the

distributed job to a predetermined printing apparatus ~~in a case of assigning at least the part of the distributed job supposed to be printed by the printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in said recognition step~~.

Claims 29 and 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (currently amended): [[The]] A control method according to claim 21, further comprising a determination step, of, in a case of assigning at least [[the]] part of the distributed job ~~supposed~~ to be printed by the printing apparatus to another printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in said recognition step, determining whether the other printing apparatus which prints pages preceding to the distributed job assigned to the printing apparatus produces a face-down output,

wherein if an affirmative decision is rendered in said determination step, then in said decision step, at least [[the]] part of the distributed job ~~supposed~~ to be printed by the printing apparatus is assigned to the other printing apparatus that prints the preceding pages.

Claim 32 (currently amended): [[The]] A control method according to claim 31, wherein if the distributed job includes the first page of the print job prior to its division, then determination on a printing apparatus that prints [[a]] the distributed job including the final page of the print job is performed in said determination step instead of the printing apparatus that prints the preceding pages.

Claim 33 (currently amended): [[The]] A control method according to claim 21, further comprising a determination step, of, in a case of assigning at least [[the]] part of the distributed job ~~supposed~~ to be printed by the printing apparatus to another printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in said recognition step, determining whether the other printing apparatus which prints pages following the distributed job assigned to the printing apparatus produces a face-up output,

wherein if an affirmative decision is rendered in said determination step, then in said decision step, at least [[the]] part of the distributed jobs ~~supposed~~ to be printed by the printing apparatus is assigned to the other printing apparatus that prints the following pages.

Claim 34 (currently amended): [[The]] A control method according to claim 33, wherein if the distributed job includes the final page of the print job prior to its division, then determination on a printing apparatus that prints [[a]] the distributed job including the first page of the print job is performed in said determination step instead of the printing apparatus that prints the following pages.

Claim 35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): [[The]] A control method according to claim 23 further comprising a detection step, of detecting a page or pages which have been printed by the printing apparatus,

wherein, in said reassignment step, the distributed job ~~supposed to be performed~~ to be printed by the printing apparatus except the page or pages which have been printed in [[said]] the printing apparatus is reassigned to another printing apparatus.

Claim 37 (currently amended): [[The]] A control method according to claim 20, wherein the status is an abnormal state in the printing apparatus, and the abnormal state includes at least either of depletion of paper and power off state.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A control method of a printing system which performs printing by controlling a plurality of printing apparatuses comprising:

a recognition step, of recognizing a status of a printing apparatus among [[said]] the plurality of printing apparatuses; and

a decision step, of, in a case of assigning at least a part of a print job which is assumed to be printed by the printing apparatus to another printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in said recognition step, deciding the other printing apparatus from among a plurality of available printing apparatuses in accordance with the [[a]] paper ejection type of the other available printing ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses.

Claims 39-59 (canceled)

Claim 60 (new): A control method according to claim 20, wherein, in a case where the print job is generated based on an intermediate file, the part of the print job corresponds to pages which have not been successfully printed by the printing apparatus and, in said decision step, the another printing apparatus to which the part of the print job is

assigned is decided in accordance with the paper ejection type of the printing apparatus and the paper ejection type of the other printing apparatus.